

Thank You Mr. Chair

First of all, Pakistan would like to thank Government of Uruguay for hosting first session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at beautiful city of Punta del Este. We would also like to appreciate the United Nations Environment Programme and INC Secretariat for organizing the first meeting of INC.

Mr. Chair

Rapidly increasing levels of plastic waste pose a serious global environmental problem. Plastic pollution arise at all stages of the life-cycle and

pose a threat to human health, environment and biodiversity. Marine litter negatively affects marine biodiversity, ecosystems, fisheries, maritime transport, tourism, and local societies and economies. Microplastics can be found in our food, water and even in the air we breathe.

Mr. Chair

Ministry of Climate Change imposed a complete ban on manufacture, import, sale, purchase, storage and usage of polythene bags in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) since 14th August 2019.

Ministry also conducted a study on plastic waste in Pakistan in February 2021. Major findings are:

- 3.9 Million Tons of plastic waste generated in 2020, 70% (Approx 2.6 Million Tons) of plastics waste is mismanaged and only 30% (1.3 Million Tons) is recycled/processed
- 10 % of this plastic waste are single use plastic bags

Pakistan National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) was established in February 2022 with

the support of World Economic Forum and is being implemented by the Ministry and WWF Pakistan. The goal of the partnership is to provide a platform of action for plastic waste management to all the key stakeholders and players. The major outcome of the NPAP will be the creation and implementation of a circular economy framework for the plastic sector in Pakistan to reduce plastic waste and pollution.

We would like to inform that CoRe (Collect & Recycle) is the first ever alliance in Pakistan, formed in 2020, with the mission to eliminate

packaging waste by enabling formal collection and recycling, while also raising awareness at a mass level. It envisions to create a circular economy by reducing packaging footprint through sustainable and innovative practices.

World Bank conducted a study on plastic pollution in the Indus River Basin and other regional studies in Pakistan.

Mr. Chair

We would like to encourage the producers and manufacturers of plastics products to stop the use

of hazardous and toxic additives in their products and to change their process designs to produce recyclable plastics.

We would also like to encourage the industries and companies to collect their plastic waste and recycle it in environmentally safe manner on the basis of polluter pay principles and extended producer responsibility.

Mr. Chair

We would like to request the Committee to focus on the objectives, scope and structure of the

instrument. Finally, we fully support the UNEA resolution 5/14 on international binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Thank you for Mr. Chair,

We thank INC Secretariat for preparing the documents.

We would like to suggest that the objective of the treaty should be to protect human health and environment including marine environment from plastic pollution.

We support the option of specific convention for plastic instrument.

We echo China on scope of treaty. We first have to define the plastic what types of plastics whether single use plastic, packaging's, plastic in

products like in the form of electronics fishing gears, microplastics and other types, then we shall negotiate the scope of the instrument.

We support the provisions of National Action Plan, Environmentally Sound Recycling of plastics, Financial and technical support including technology transfer, Control Measures to reduce and minimize the use of plastics, Alternatives of hazardous and toxic additives, Extended Producers Responsibility.

The treaty should be based on polluter pay principles.

The instrument should also address the legacy plastics and phase out or phase down model.

The treaty should be negotiated on available scientific information particularly the impacts of plastic pollution on human health, environment including biodiversity.

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Pakistan echo Switzerland, Canada and
Philippines

Pakistan supports the proposal of two streams one on objectives, scope, core obligations, and control measures and second on means of implementation and financing, institutional arrangements, assessment of progress of implementation, and stakeholder engagement.

We also support for establishing contact groups subject to ensure funding of two participants as already many member states pointed out.

We support intersessional work between INC-1
to INC-2 to discuss substantial elements.

Thank you for Mr. Chair,

We echo the intervention of Saudi Arabia on monitoring and evaluation mechanism. It is so early to discuss this mechanism.

However, we support effectiveness of implementation and national reporting. We can learn from other multilateral environmental agreements like Basel Convention on annual reporting system, Stockholm Convention on effectiveness evaluation and its reporting cycle, Minamata Convention on annual reporting and

Montreal Protocol on consumption and reduction of ozone depleting substances.

Pakistan emphasizes on base line data of import of plastic raw materials, plastic products, its uses collection and recycling of plastics in environmentally safe manner at national level.

Pakistan also suggests for the targets to the companies for collection and recycling at national level.

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Pakistan echo EU, Canada

Pakistan would like to consider Standard articles on final provisions like Reservations, Settlement of disputes, Amendments to the instrument, Adoption and amendment of annexes, Entry into force, Withdrawal as already agreed in other multilateral environmental agreements like Minamata, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Basel and Vienna Conventions and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

However, we shall look into other articles which will be discussed in plastic treaty.